

NSC BRIEFING

30 May 1960

CUBA

- I. Soviet trade specialists and technicians are beginning to arrive in Cuba in sizeable numbers.
- A. 80 are believed to have arrived on 22 May to join the trade commission established during Mikoyan's visit in February.
1. Venezuelan newspapers reported last week that Russians and Czechs passing through that country en route to Cuba are documented as mechanics, technicians, and experts on air-ports, hydrology, meteorology, and other specialities.

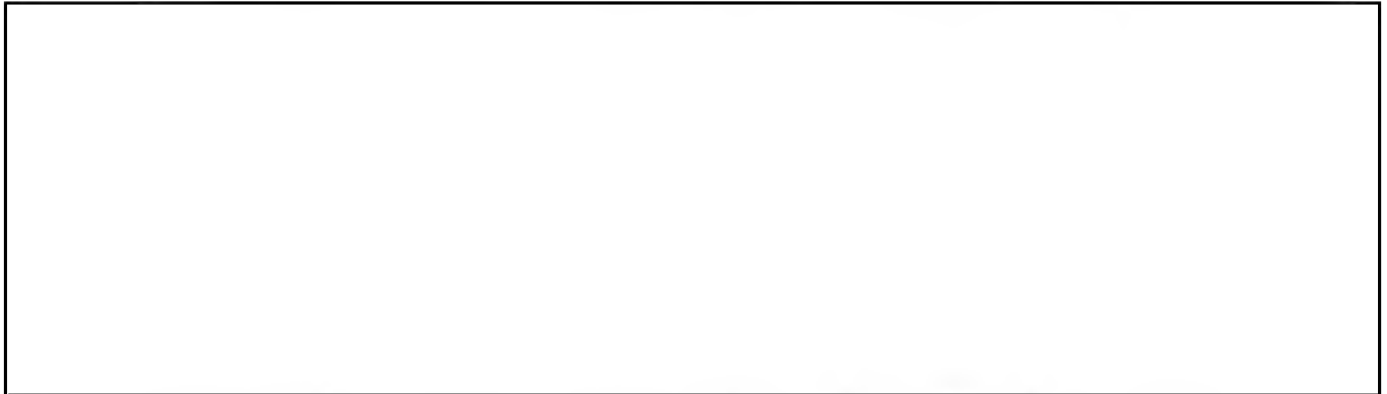
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- B. US service attachés believe the Soviet advisers were in on the recent Cuban order to the three foreign refineries (Esso, Texaco and Shell) to begin processing Russian crude oil.
1. The original Cuban-Soviet oil contract called for shipment to Cuba of 600,000 tons of petroleum, half in crude and half in refined products.
2. But now the Cubans are apparently expecting a total of 1,500,000 tons this year. (This would be 10,800,000 barrels, or about half of Cuba's annual consumption, almost all of which is normally imported.)

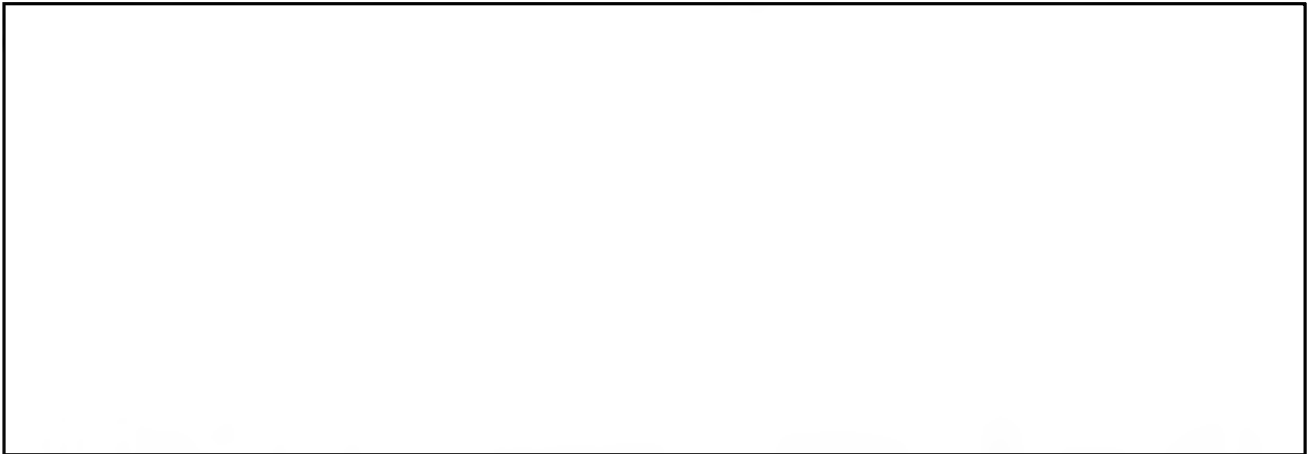
DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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3. Five Soviet tankers have already arrived since mid-April.
4. One of the first projects envisaged under the \$100,000,-
000 Soviet credit is the construction of an oil refinery--
or expansion of the existing small government-owned one.



D. The Czechs have been negotiating for some weeks in Havana on a trade agreement. East Germany, and Poland, as well as the USSR, have already signed such agreements.



II. The expected establishment of relations between Cuba and Communist China may come in June.

- A. The Peiping Opera Company is to be in Cuba during June as the highlight of a long-planned campaign emphasizing cultural ties between the two countries. This would be an opportunity to announce diplomatic ties.

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1. The Cuban-Chinese Friendship Association was formed on 14 May by pro-Communist Cubans who recently visited China.

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- [REDACTED]
3. Peiping has shown special sympathy for Castro's revolution and Cuba seems to be a key target in plans for stepped up Chinese propaganda activity in Latin America.

III. Indonesian President Sukarno, after his 9-14 May visit to Cuba, said

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[REDACTED] "Cuba is a complete mess."

- A. He was affronted by the disorganization of his reception and a series of minor incidents during his visit.

IV. Castro told the Cubans on 27 May that the US decision to end its "insignificant" technical assistance program is "unimportant" to Cuba but does "moral damage" to the US.

- A. He linked to US action to Cuba's just announced disaster aid to Chile--\$200,000 in cash and \$800,000 worth of sugar--"It seems that someone is jealous that we Latin American nations are helping each other, so they took away that little bit of technical aid."

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